

Forestry Division Annual Report

2015 Accomplishments

05/12/2016

Jay Hein



City Forestry Programs

Urban Forestry

- ~ 220,000 street and park trees
- Aging tree population
- Current focus is on hazard tree removals
- Contract funding for pruning and removals
- Field Staff:
 - 1 Staff Forester
 - 3 Forestry Technicians
 - 3 Hourly Employees
 - ½ Maintenance Supervisor

Forest Management

- ~ 10,000 acres of open space
- Reliant upon grant funding and other partners
- Focus on restoration projects to improve forest health
- Field Staff:
 - 1 Staff Forester

Native ROW Mowing

- ~ 210 miles of ROW and median mowing, weed control, trash cleanup
- Contract funding for many of the primary and secondary ROWs and medians
- Field Staff:
 - 3 Maintenance Technicians
 - 1 Hourly Employee
 - ½ Maintenance Supervisor

U R B A N F O R E S T R Y

Urban Forestry Accomplishments

- Pruning
 - Pruned a total of 1,454 trees by Forestry staff and contractors
 - Removals
 - Removed 682 trees by Forestry staff and contractors
 - Planting
 - 290 trees planted (200 seedlings in Blodgett O.S., 75 seedlings in Stratton O.S.)
 - Downtown Medians
 - Performed removals and spot pruning along Nevada Ave.
 - Special Projects
 - Winter storm event in March, 2015 – Significant crabapple damage
 - Wind event in November resulted in 37 tree/large branch failures throughout the City
 - Popsicle bridge tree removals
 - Harlan Wolfe grant project site restoration
- ~ 1% of our city-owned urban forest





Urban Forestry Contracted Services

Tree Pruning

- Two 2-person crews working throughout the year on area pruning
- Primarily focused on west side of town for 2015



Urban Forestry Contracted Services

Tree Removals

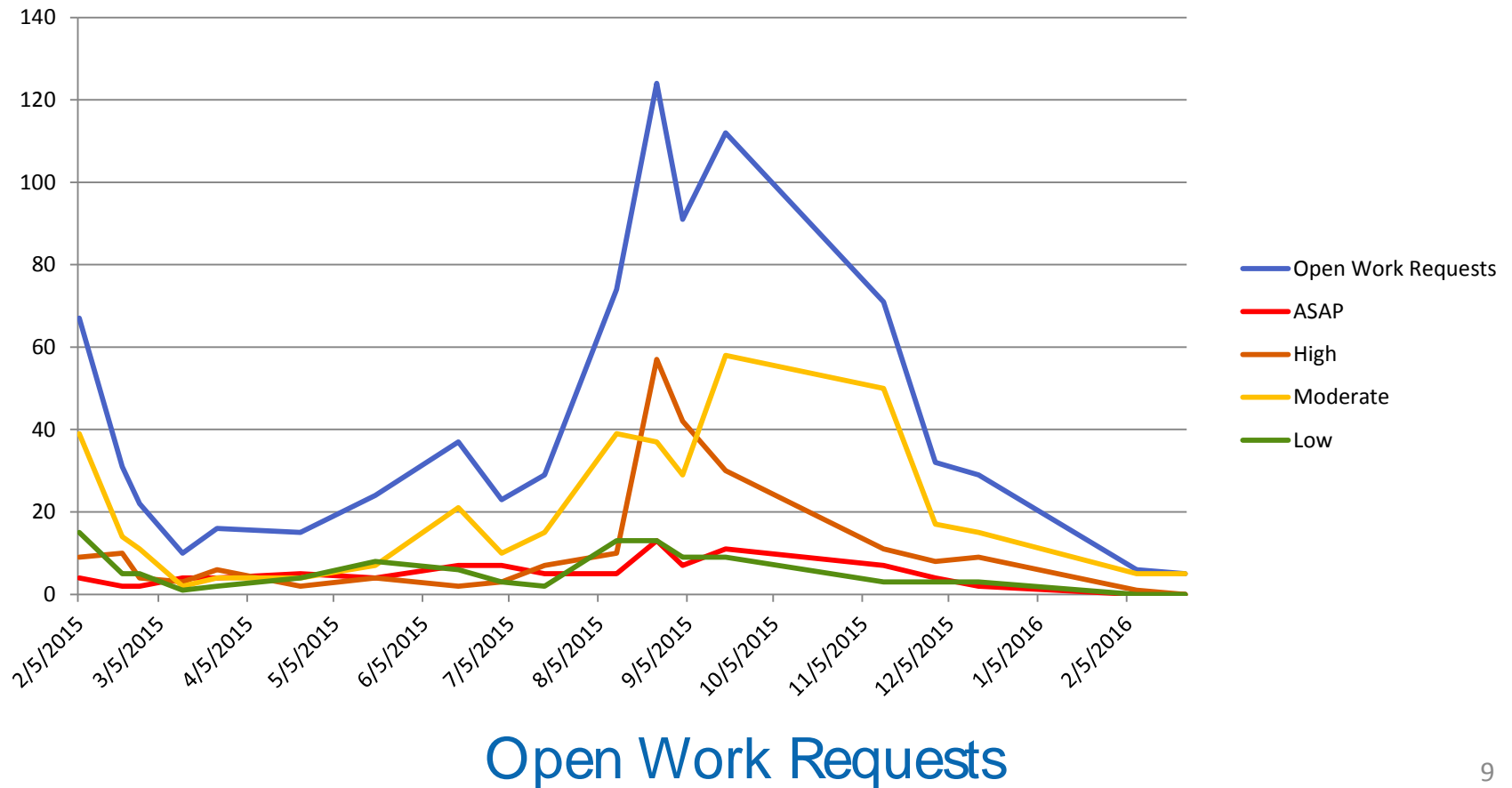
- In 2015 we received one-time contract funding to reduce our backlog of hazardous tree removals
- In 2015, 114 trees were removed under this contract.
- This contract expires in May, 2016

Stump Grinding

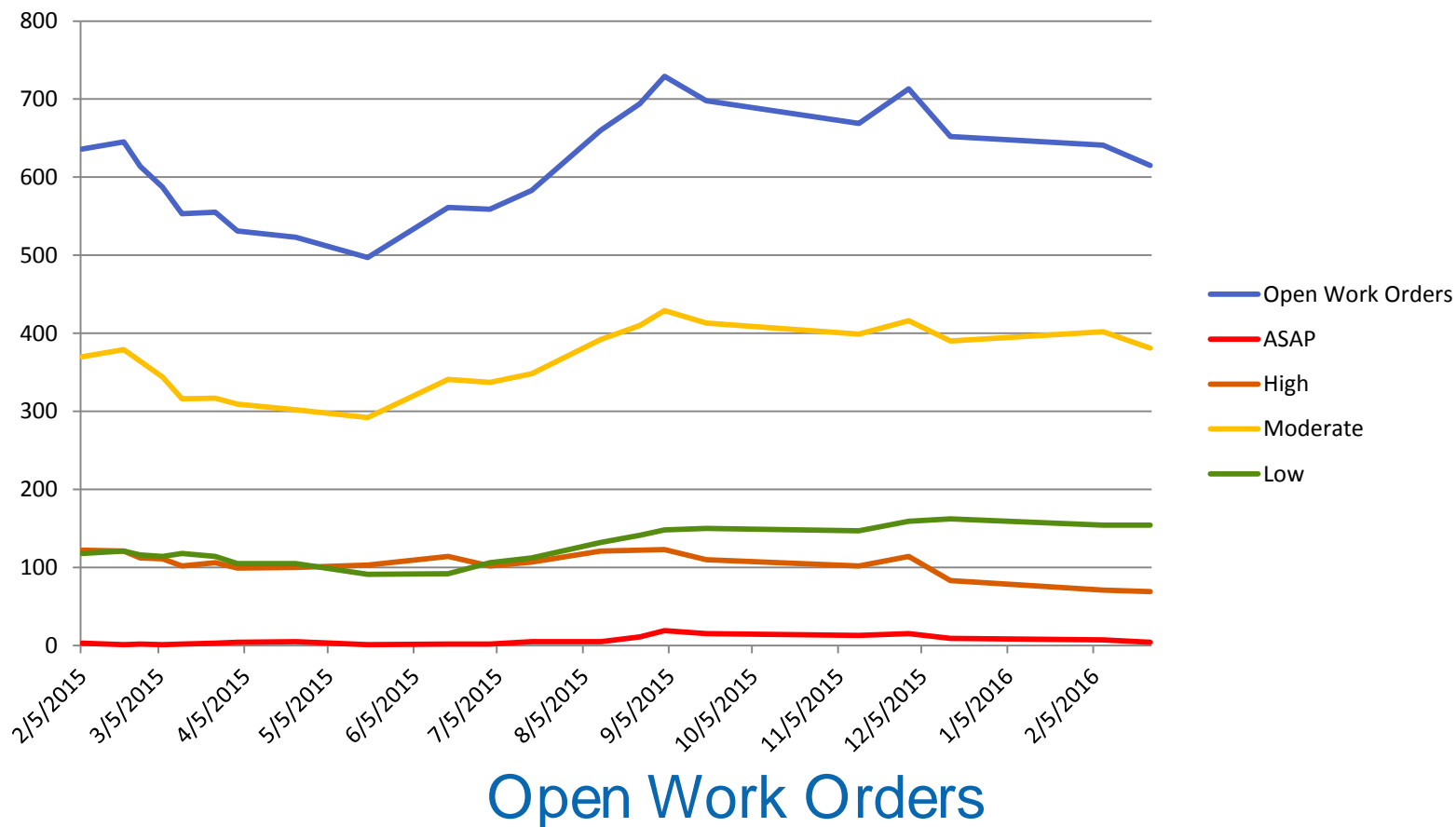
- Provides stump grinding for locations specified by our staff
- In 2015 we removed 273 stumps from our parkways, medians, and parks



Urban Forestry Resource Issues



Urban Forestry Resource Issues

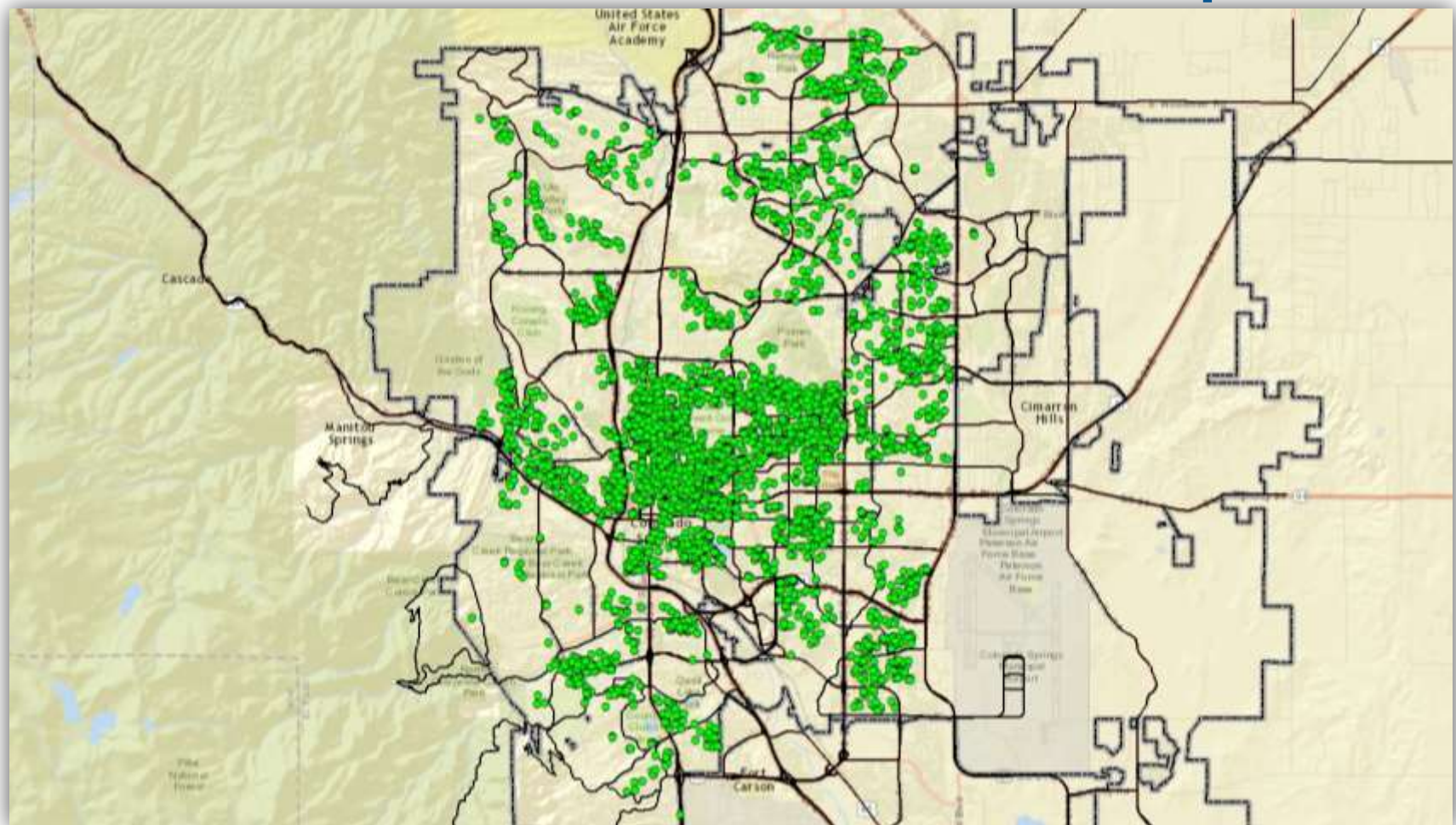


Urban Forestry Resource Issues



Tree Failure During Windstorm – November 2015

Distribution of Silver Maple



Urban Forestry Resource Issues



Tree Failure— October 2015

2015 Urban Forestry Insurance Claims

Claim #	Date of Loss	Date Opened	Date Closed	Type	Description
15-022208	1/12/2015	1/14/2015	1/29/2015	Liability	Alleges city tree fell on vehicle
15-022196	1/13/2015	1/13/2015	2/2/2015	Liability	Alleges tree split in half from weight of snow & is blocking fire hydrant & dmgd some trees
15-022294	1/13/2015	1/28/2015	3/11/2015	Liability	Alleges Forestry broke top of flagpole when removing a tree
15-022401	2/3/2015	2/6/2015	2/9/2015	Liability	Alleges tree fell on property
15-023077	5/5/2015	5/7/2015	5/29/2015	Liability	Alleges fallen tree broke fence & is blocking driveway
15-023140	5/8/2015	5/13/2015	5/27/2015	Liability	Alleges veh dmg due to falling tree limb
15-023288	5/26/2015	5/29/2015	6/11/2015	Liability	Alleges veh dmgd when tree branch fell in street
15-023377	5/29/2015	6/5/2015	6/11/2015	Liability	Alleges City tree limb was hanging too low and knocked load off trailer and onto a parked car on the street.
15-023397	6/7/2015	6/8/2015	6/25/2015	Liability	Alleges tree branch fell & dmgd vehicle
15-023531	6/28/2015	7/6/2015	7/9/2015	Liability	Alleges veh dmg when tree limb fell
15-023541	7/6/2015	7/7/2015	7/13/2015	Liability	Alleges vehicle roof caved in when tree branch fell on it
15-023546	7/6/2015	7/7/2015	7/13/2015	Liability	Alleges dmgs to gutters, guard rail & roofing when City tree fell near house
15-023680	7/16/2015	8/3/2015	8/5/2015	Liability	Alleges tree trimmer sprayed dog's eyes & tree with chemicals when working in area
15-023616	7/17/2015	7/20/2015	7/21/2015	Liability	Alleges windshield dmg due to falling branch
15-023657	7/22/2015	7/27/2015	9/15/2015	Liability	Alleges tree branch broke window of car
15-023682	7/29/2015	8/3/2015	8/4/2015	Liability	Alleges tree trimmers destroyed small raspberry patch in back yard
15-023778	8/14/2015	8/17/2015	8/19/2015	Liability	Alleges tree branches fell on roof of house & dmgd travel trailer
15-023841	8/27/2015	8/31/2015	9/4/2015	Liability	Alleges city tree fell on parked car
15-023940	8/28/2015	9/28/2015	10/15/2015	Liability	Alleges tree branch fell on vehicle
15-023871	9/1/2015	9/3/2015	9/4/2015	Liability	Alleges falling tree dmgd metal fencing
15-023896	9/11/2015	9/14/2015	9/17/2015	Liability	Alleges tree limb hit left fender
15-024007	9/22/2015	10/5/2015	10/7/2015	Liability	Alleges tree limb fell on vehicle
15-023925	9/23/2015	9/23/2015	10/15/2015	Liability	Alleges tree branch fell & dmgd windshield
15-024003	10/4/2015	10/5/2015	10/6/2015	Liability	Alleges city tree dropped a limb causing dmg to truck topper
15-024051	10/30/2015	11/2/2015	11/4/2015	Liability	Alleges city tree fell on truck
15-024052	10/30/2015	11/2/2015	11/2/2015	Liability	Alleges city tree fell on truck
15-024313	11/3/2015	12/17/2015	12/29/2015	Liability	Alleges tree branch fell on clmt resulting in injuries
15-024182	11/11/2015	11/19/2015	11/24/2015	Liability	Alleges rotten tree fell on veh causing damages
15-024163	11/17/2015	11/17/2015	11/25/2015	Liability	Alleges tree branch broke off city tree & dmgd mail box & pulled concrete out of the ground
15-024281	11/18/2015	12/10/2015	12/17/2015	Liability	Alleges top of tree broke off & fell on vehicle due to wind
15-024180	11/18/2015	11/19/2015	11/24/2015	Liability	Alleges tree branches fell off city tree & hit car
15-024196	11/18/2015	11/23/2015	11/24/2015	Liability	Alleges tree branch fell & broke windshield
15-024169	11/18/2015	11/18/2015	12/1/2015	Liability	Alleges city tree limb fell on house
15-024178	11/18/2015	11/19/2015	12/3/2015	Liability	Alleges tree fell on house causing dmgs to home & property
15-024212	11/23/2015	11/24/2015	11/25/2015	Liability	Alleges tree limb fell on & broke end table when Alton Tree Trimming was out trimming trees
15-024259	12/2/2015	12/3/2015	12/7/2015	Liability	Alleges tree limb fell on gate & just missed the home

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Forest Management Accomplishments

- Completion of North Cheyenne Canon O.S. Forest Restoration Project
- Successful application for grant funding for Stratton and Bear Creek Canyon
 - 160 acres to be treated between the two projects
 - Collaboration with CSU and CSFD
- Initiated Douglas-fir tussock moth treatment program
 - Multi-jurisdictional project
 - Approximately 3,500 total acres to be treated
- Special Projects
 - Promontory Point, Neil Ranch, Oak Meadows, Quail Lake, University Park – Collaboration between City Forestry and CSFD
 - Wastewater treatment plant forest restoration project – Collaboration between City Forestry and CSU
 - Shook's Run invasive removals and Garden of the Gods Trading Post hazard tree removals.
 - Waldo Canyon fire rehabilitation planting
- Program Challenge
 - Lack of reliable, sustainable source of funding. Too heavily reliant on grants

North Cheyenne Canon Project



NATIVE RIGHT-OF-WAY

Right-of-Way Accomplishments

- 1st year of successfully contracting out much of our median and ROW mowing
 - Increased frequency of mowing on all native rights-of-way
- Partnered with KCSB to conduct trash removal
- Snow removal on ROW's and in the downtown area
- Special projects
 - Sand Creek Stadium parking lots
 - Venezia Park
 - Larry Ochs Sports Complex
 - I-25 Corridor in collaboration with City Code Enforcement

INSECT AND DISEASE

Insect and Disease

Douglas-fir Tussock Moth

- Affected both urban forest and open spaces
- Epidemic infestation levels
- Initiated a treatment program to take place in June, 2016
 - Collaboration with multiple jurisdictions
 - Approximately 3500 acres to be treated
- Affected urban trees will be individually treated in late spring



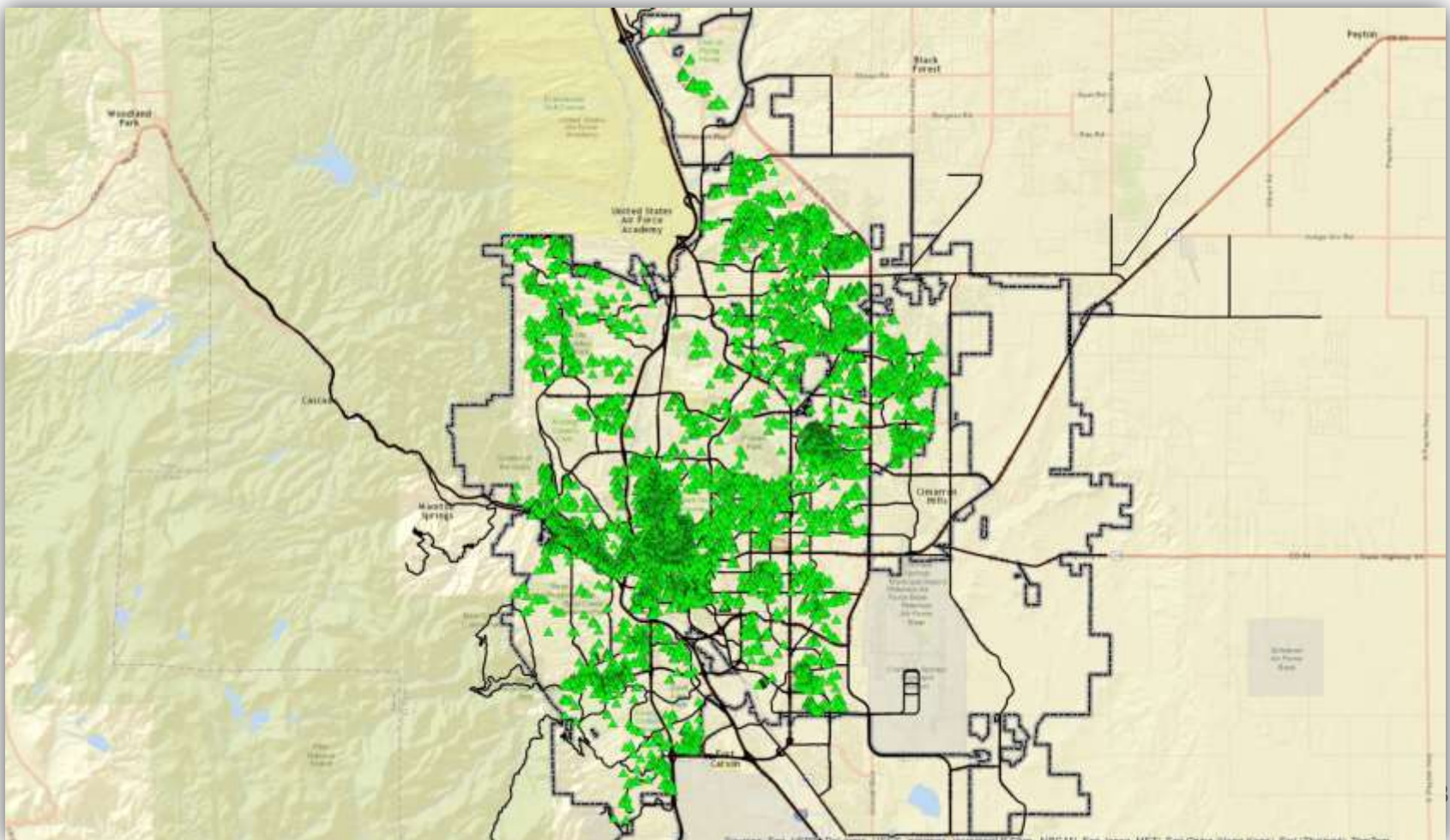
Insect and Disease (Continued)

Emerald Ash Borer

- As of 2015, EAB is still only known to be present in Boulder County
- We continue to set traps and conduct surveys
- In 2015 we initiated a branch sampling program throughout the city
- Early detection is crucial with this insect
- Green ash accounts for 15-20% of our tree population, but greater than 30% of total tree canopy



Distribution of Green Ash



OTHER PROGRAMS

Other Program Accomplishments

- Tree City USA Program:

- Celebrated our 38th year as Tree City USA on May 2, 2015 at Stratton Open Space
- 2016 Arbor Day was held on May 7, 2016 at Alamo Park
- Colorado Springs is the oldest Tree City USA in CO



- TreeCycle Program:

- Collaboration between City Forestry, El Paso County, CSU, and several other organizations
- Provides safe and convenient disposal and recycling of Christmas Trees
- Proceeds from donations support community youth sports programs. In 2015/2016 over \$19,000 was raised



2016 – A Look Forward

Projects for the 2016 Season:

- **Tree Pruning Contract**
 - Continued area pruning
 - Expires in December, 2016
- **Tree Removal Contract**
 - Expires in May, 2016
 - No additional funding for the remainder of 2016 or beyond
- **Forest Management Projects**
 - Stratton Open Space
 - Bear Creek Canyon Open Space
- **Tree Planting Projects**
 - Downtown B.I.D. replacement trees
 - Sand Creek Stadium
 - Downtown medians
 - Evergreen Cemetery (transplant)
 - Suckerpunch Chokecherry Trial Trees
- **Arbor Day**
 - May 7, 2016
 - Replanting downtown medians
- **ROW Mowing**
 - Expanded coverage of contract area
 - Primary and secondary ROWs, several trails, and portions of the SIMD's under contract.
- **Downtown Median Removals**
 - Continue weekly removals throughout the year in the downtown corridor.
- **Insect and Disease**
 - Continue monitoring for presence of EAB
 - Tussock moth treatment project
 - Spot spraying of urban trees infested by tussock moth
 - Monitor and treat for mountain pine beetle as needed

QUESTIONS?